



National Latino AIDS Awareness Day Dia Nacional Latino de la Concientizacion del SIDA

October 15, 2004 is National Latino AIDS Awareness Day. It is a day to raise awareness about the HIV/AIDS epidemic within the Latino community and to enable California's many community organizations, health care providers, state and local programs, elected officials and general public to address this ongoing health crisis.

- Latinos are a fast growing population in California representing over 32 percent of California residents. Unfortunately they also represent 22 percent of all AIDS cases in the state.
- The National Center for Health Statistics lists HIV disease as the fourth leading cause of death among Latinas ages 25-44 and second leading cause of death for Latino men ages 35-44.
- Throughout the HIV/AIDS epidemic, Latino AIDS cases have been significantly younger at diagnosis than other racial/ethnic groups. Thirty percent of Latinas and 23 percent of Latino males were younger than 30 when diagnosed with AIDS.
- In California, three-fourths of all Latino AIDS cases resided in four counties (Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, and Orange) at the time of their AIDS diagnosis.
- Latinas account for a growing share of reported HIV infections. At the end of 2003, Latinas represented 28.4 percent of reported HIV infections, second only to African American women (37.4 percent), and similar to White women at 28.7 percent.

Join the cause to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS in the Latino community on October 15, 2004. For information about events planned in your community or to locate HIV testing services, contact the local health department or visit www.AIDShotline.org. To learn more about HIV/AIDS, visit the Office of AIDS web site at <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/AIDS>.

